

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 2, 2003

Present: Corey, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Amy Lantis; Brian Johnson; Judy Horton; Bob Ockerman; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Pat Yott; Dick Sanderson; Helen Granger, The Independent; Gary Granger; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated August 18, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item No. 7) Consider Appointment of Dan Wagner to the Building Authority.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Brian Johnson stated there needs to be some long-term goals set for Walnut Street. He does not want to see Walnut Street made into a drag strip, but he would like to have the rough spots removed so two vehicles can be driven down the street without having to wait for a vehicle move over. He further stated the brush along the side of the road needs to be mowed because no one can see the deer coming out of the brush. He would like to see the stolen deer sign replaced because the sign did help slow people down. Mr. Sawyer advised he spoke to Lonny Latunski from the road commission last week about getting an estimate on what it would cost the city to have the road commission cut down the brush. The road commission has cleaned out the area for the

city in the past but the road commission does not cut the brush back very far. Mayor Corey asked if the deer sign was a city sign. Mr. Johnson advised Tom Svrcsek put up the deer sign to help slow down the traffic on Walnut Street.

Judy Horton reminded council that the Historical Commission was having its third antique truck show on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mayor Corey asked if there was an admission charge. Ms. Horton advised yes. Mayor Corey asked how much the admission charge was. Ms. Horton advised \$3.00.

Pat Yott thanked the mayor, council and grand marshal for their help with the library parade. Mayor Corey stated the library parade turned out very well. There were a lot of people downtown considering the parade was on a Saturday afternoon. Mayor Corey asked if there was any money collected. Ms. Yott advised \$530.25.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO SATA BOARD: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Robert Buschman to the SATA board to serve at the pleasure of the Council for a term to begin upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing until September 30, 2004 or until a successor is appointed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER NAMING WEST SIDE PAVILION AS "EAGLE SCOUT PAVILION": Mehigh moved, Wagner seconded to name the new west side pavilion as the "Eagle Scout Pavilion".

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER LIFT ARM INSTALLATION AT FOOT BRIDGE: Tim Crawford explained the Digitech bid did not include shipping and handling or the gooseneck pedestal. Councilperson Runyan asked if an ordinance could be created that states any unauthorized vehicle going across the foot bridge would be fined \$5,000. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Mehigh asked if the city has a price on the other submitted bid. Mr. Crawford advised the other bid was \$2,832.00. Councilperson Johnson asked if there was any other place the lift arm could be used again. Mr. Crawford advised he could not say because the lift arm would be hard wired and cemented in. Councilperson Mehigh asked if the lift arm could be utilized when the park needs mowing instead of going through town or if the lift arm could be used at the recycling brush and leaf center. Mr. Crawford advised everyone in the City of Corunna would have to be given something to raise the lift arm. Mayor Corey stated there is still the issue of safety. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the city could put insurance on the lift arm once it is installed. Mr. Sawyer advised the city could put insurance on anything. Councilperson Sanderson stated this is something the city should look at. Mr. Sawyer stated he was not

thrilled about the concept of having only one lift installed in the center of the foot bridge because this will not keep vehicles off the foot bridge. He further stated the lift arm could be used in the future, but he encouraged council not to make its decision based on potential future use because this might never materialize due to the way the system actually operates. He also stated there has never been a problem with people driving over the foot bridge in the past, but when the Shiawassee Street bridge is tore out, people might look at the foot bridge differently. Councilperson Sanderson asked where the lift arm would be installed. Mr. Sawyer advised somewhere in the middle of the foot bridge. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city should wait for a better bid. Mr. Crawford advised the city would not get a better bid. Councilperson Mehig stated he had some concerns about spending \$3,000 when money is so tight. He suggested only doing the approaches and grading since there have not been any problems with vehicles using the foot bridge. Mayor Corey stated he does not think there will be driving their vehicle across the foot bridge, but when there is a police or ambulance emergency, someone with their adrenalin pumping might not go across the foot bridge cautiously, and the foot bridge rails will not stop a car from going over the rails. He further stated he worries about people using the foot bridge without some sort of device to at least slow the person down. Council also has the option to mandate the police department to do an hourly patrol through the park during the evening hours. Councilperson Runyan asked what it would cost to draft an ordinance and to pay for signage stating any person driving an unauthorized vehicle on the foot bridge would be fined or jailed. Mr. Sawyer advised the only power the council has when it comes to getting compliance from residents is to put something on the property taxes. Mayor Corey stated only if the person is a city resident. Mr. Sawyer stated there is not a good chance of getting a stiff penalty awarded plus there would be legal expenses. Councilperson Sanderson stated he thought this item should be tabled until the city council could get some figures on what it would cost for the wiring and to build a platform. He further stated he would like to have the police department patrol the park at least once an hour. Mehig moved, Wagner seconded to authorize the purchase of a lift arm for the McCurdy Park foot bridge in the amount not to exceed \$3,500 to be paid for from line item 532-560-818.000.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehig, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL OVERHEAD OPENING FOR FIRE HALL: Councilperson Sanderson asked if Caledonia Township would be asked to chip in on this expense. Mr. Sawyer advised this expense would be included as part of the rent. Runyan moved, Mehig seconded to authorize the City Manager to contract for architectural services not to exceed \$750 for the addition of an overhead door to the fire hall and to solicit costs for the installation.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR NEW DPW TRUCK:

Mr. Sawyer advised Dick Burlingame has read over the purchase agreement and saw no problems with the agreement. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the Lease Purchase Agreement with Municipal Services Group, Inc. and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER MODIFICATIONS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE: Councilperson Mehigh

advised the number of planning commission members on page 22 of the Rules of Procedure has been changed from seven to nine members. Mayor Corey stated the Charter Review Committee has been disbanded and asked if the committee was listed in the Rules of Procedure in case the city council wanted to create another committee. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought the Charter Review Committee should be left in the Rules of Procedure. Mayor Corey advised a change on page 19 section I was also needed to remove the second to the last sentence in the Building Authority section. Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to modify the Rules of Procedure to change the time of the Committee of the Whole meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to eliminate references to the Team 21 Mid-County Development Committee and Team 21 Board of Directors, to change the Planning Commission to a nine member committee as per the ordinance revision and to remove the second to the last sentence in the Building Commission. Councilperson Runyan suggested changing the pre-council meeting from 6:30 to 6:15 in order to give council more time to discuss the agenda items. Mayor Corey advised Councilperson Wagner has a problem with making a 6:15 meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DAN WAGNER TO BUILDING AUTHORITY: Mehigh

moved, Johnson seconded to appoint Dan Wagner to the Building Authority.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Janet Washburn advised the dedication of the Eagle Scout Pavilion is scheduled for September 13 at 10:30 a.m. Mayor Corey advised the city would have a proclamation to present to him.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh stated the city is in dire need of funds, but he did not know what could be done to get the message out to the people about why the Headlee override is needed.

Councilperson Runyan agreed with Councilperson Mehig that the city is in dire need of funds and the longer the city lets the millage rate go down the harder it will be to raise the millage rate back up.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he was troubled with how to let the people know why the city needs this or that the city needs that, but the city council needs to explain why the Headlee override is needed. He further stated the people need to know everything that is going on because most of the people do not show up to a council meeting to find out what is going on, but the people have the right to know what is going on in the city.

Mayor Corey advised the Downtown Development Authority would be hosting an afternoon luncheon on September 17 between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and all of the business owners in Corunna would be invited. He would like all of the councilpersons to be there because the council needs to mingle with the business owners and listen to what the business owners have to say and what the business owners want the community to look like.

ADJOURN: Wagner moved, Mehig seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:00 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK